THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY. OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) has laid due emphasis on water management. The NWP states that there should be an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to planning, development, conservation and management of water resources. The Policy also states that adequate emphasis need to be given to physical and financial sustainability of water resources facilities and management of water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach. Ministry of Water Resources encourages adoption of better management practices.

(c) and (d) River interlinking project has important role in equitable distribution of water resources by transferring waters from water surplus to water deficit basins/areas.

The Government of India have formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development (NPP) in August, 1980. The NPP comprises of two components *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and (ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water DevelopmentAgency (NWDA) under Ministry of Water Resources has been set up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP. NWDA after various studies identified 30 links under NPP. Out of the 30 links, five links have been prioritized for their implementation. The prioritized links are (i) Ken-Betwa link (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link (iii) Dmanaganga-Pinjal link (iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada link, and (v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) link.

Inter-linking of rivers in India

†848. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scheme of inter-linking of various rivers in India is under discussion for the last 70 years;

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction;

(c) whether above scheme could be implemented in view of the conflicts among various States even if water resource is placed in concurrent list;

(d) whether State Government of Rajasthan has submitted any scheme of inter-linking rivers of Chambal basin in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Suggestions for a National Water Grid for transferring water from water rich regions to water-deficit areas have been made from time to time. Two proposals, put forth earlier in the seventies which attracted considerable attention, are National Water Grid by Dr. K. L. Rao and Garland Canal by Captain Dastur. These proposals were not pursued further by the Government as they were not techno-economically feasible.

The Ministry of Water Resources (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980. The NPP comprises of Two componets *viz.* (i) Peninsular Rivers Development and

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(ii) Himalayan Rivers Development and envisages construction of storages on various river systems along with interlinking canal systems to transfer water from water surplus areas to water deficit regions. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was sep up in 1982 to study the feasibility of inter basin water transfer proposals and give a concrete shape to NPP.

Based on various studies NWD has identified 30 links (16 Peninsular and 14 Himalayan) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have already been completed. Further, NWDA has also taken up the work of preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for one priority link under Peninsular Component namely Ken-Betwa Link.

(c) The implementation of inter-linking of rivers in the country depends upon the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreements with the neighbouring countries.

(d) and (e) One of the links namely, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal has been envisaged under NPP to provide irrigation in the water deficit/arid areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in Chambal basin. The FR of this link had been completed in 2004. The States of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have also agreed in principle for the preparation of DPR of this link.

Joint survey of projects with Nepal

†849. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects which are being surveyed jointly with Nepal;

(b) whether joint survey of some of these projects has been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects and the projects proposed to be constructed during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project, Saptakosi High Dam Project, Sunkosi storage cum Diversion Scheme, Kamala Project are under investigation jointly with Nepal. Joint surveys for Pancheshwar Project have been completed except for the re-regulating dam site. For field surveys and investigation of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sunkosi storage cum Diversion Scheme, a Joint Project Office (JPO) has been set up in Nepal which would also carry out feasibility study of Kamla and preliminary study of Basmati Multipurpose Project.

(c) The construction of these projects will depend upon the finalization of joint Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and then entering into agreements between the Governments of India and Nepal on the basis of joint DPR.

Flood tragedy in Bihar

†850. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of any permanent solution of the flood tragedy in Bihar the huge loss of lives and property takes place in the State every year in comparison to all the States and areas in the country;

(b) whether the efforts made by the Central Government years ago to overcome the widespread destruction caused by flood, through inter-linking of rivers within Bihar itself instead of depending on Nepal, could not be materialized till now; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.